

## Benchrest Triggers

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trigger, the three-lever trigger (figure nine). Contact force is reduced enough by this one lever to make pulls as low as two ounces possible.

We can also combine both approaches, although the resulting pull weight can be so light as to be of doubtful utility. The Woody set trigger, shown in figure five and used in match Springfield rifles some fifty years ago, had two levers in the set mechanism to reduce tension from the kick-off spring. There were also Swiss set triggers of the time with even more levers. Pulls were reportedly so light with these triggers that one had to be careful about what direction the breeze was coming from. They were true "hair" triggers.

Canjar single set triggers represent another variation on this theme, with the set mechanism working underneath a multiple-lever trigger. The impact needed to dislodge the main sear is then so slight that a very light kick-off spring can be used to start with.

Engagement, overtravel, and sensitivity are roughly comparable between set triggers and multiple-lever triggers working at equal weight levels. The big differences involve lock time and vibration.

Whereas simple multiple-lever triggers can have lock times comparable to a normal hunting trigger (say a fraction of a millisecond), set triggers are another matter entirely, generally taking longer to function than the firing pin itself. Set triggers also create vibrations that can travel throughout the rifle before the bullet exits from the muzzle.

Thus while set triggers were once very popular in benchrest shooting, the faster and less complex *three-lever* or *two-ounce* triggers have now largely phased them out, providing as light a pull as most shooters can effectively utilize anyway.



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## Single-Shots

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and this brought out the two problems that I deemed needed correcting: the finger lever and the very high sidewalls of the receiver.

The classic S-shaped finger lever is quite ideal for a straight-grip stock, and I had no problem with it on my .45 RCBS high-wall rifle. But on this Model L rifle, the same-shaped finger lever was a knuckle buster and a very mean one at that. Its use on a heavy-recoiling rifle with a pistol-grip stock could easily cause a shooter to develop a case of flinching. I had to alter the lever.

I did it in this manner: I heated the S part of the lever red-hot and straightened it out. Then I sawed 1.5 inches off its straightened end. Then taking a 1/8x1/2 inch piece of strap iron about 2 1/2 inches long and bending it to a loose L, I welded it to the main part of the lever just far enough back to allow it to clear the trigger. Additional bending and shaping and filing had to be done before it was finished. So altered, it is far less of a finger bruiser, believe me.

The second problem with this rifle with a scope mounted on it was that of difficult loading and unloading, especially the latter. There was just not enough room between the scope and the high receiver walls to easily insert a loaded round or to give finger assistance in removing a loaded cartridge or fired case from the action. The remedy for this was to lower one of the receiver walls; that is, to shape the receiver on the order of the Ruger Number One. So that is what I did, and since the stock had a cheekpiece for a right-handed shooter, I cut the right wall down approximately 5/16 inch, enough to allow the entrance of my thumb or finger to assist in the loading and extraction. The cutting down of the wall would have been an easy job had I had a milling machine at my disposal. But since I did not, I merely drilled a row of small holes at the line of the lowered wall and then sawed and filed the surplus metal away. I can't see where this weakens the action one bit, and it certainly made the rifle more shootable.

The lowered receiver wall also allows better access to the hammer, thus making the hammer easier to cock and safer to lower. This is true whether the rifle has a scope or not. Incidentally, a clamp-on hammer spur can be fitted to this hammer to make it still easier to cock. This requires some file work on the hammer spur or on the hammer

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